

**Public Notice for Water Quality Certification and/or Waste  
Discharge Requirements (Dredge/Fill Projects)**

CDOT – Hwy 199, Curve Realignment Project  
(WDID No. 1A05001WNDN)

Del Norte County

On January 4, 2005, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application from Ms. Michele Lukkarila on behalf of the California Department of Transportation (applicant), requesting Water Quality Certification and/or Waste Discharge Requirements (Dredge/Fill Projects) to make minor modifications to roadside drainage ditches along Highway 199 at Post Mile 27.08 in Del Norte County. The proposed drainage work is part of a larger project to realign curves on this section of highway. The proposed project will cause disturbances to an unnamed tributary to the Smith River in the Middle Fork Smith River Hydrologic Area No. 103.30.

The purpose of the proposed curve realignment project is to improve the half-mile section of Highway 199 between Post Mile 27 and 27.5. This section of highway has been identified by the applicant's offices of maintenance and safety as a candidate for improvements due to the sharpness of curves and the number of collisions that have occurred within the project limits. Roadway work includes construction of retaining walls to facilitate straightening of the curves and installation of message signs with radar devices to inform drivers of their current speed. The portion of the proposed project subject to Water Quality Certification involves excavation to modify the alignment of the roadside drainage ditch where the ditch approaches a culvert inlet. The culvert carries an unnamed tributary to the Smith River under Highway 199. A retaining wall will be built at the culvert outlet and the culvert will pass through a hole in the new retaining wall. The culvert may be shorted at the outlet end. A rock energy dissipater may be added at the outlet end to protect the outlet area from erosion. There will not be any modifications to the inlet end of the culvert.

The proposed project will permanently impact less than 0.01 acre of waters of the United States. The applicants have applied for Nationwide Permit No. 18 from the United States Army Corps of Engineers, pursuant to the Clean Water Act, Section 404. The California Department of Transportation, as the lead California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) agency, adopted a Mitigated Negative Declaration (SCH#2004082042) for this project on September 27, 2004. The applicant has applied for a Lake or Streambed Alteration Agreement (1600 Permit) from the California Department of Fish and Game.

Regional Water Board staff is proposing to regulate this project pursuant to Section 401 of the Clean Water Act (33 USC 1341) and/or Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act Authority. In addition, staff will consider all comments received during a 21-day comment period that begins on the first date of issuance of this letter. If you have any questions or comments, please contact Regional Water Board staff member Dean Prat by phone at (707) 576-2801, or e-mail [dprat@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:dprat@waterboards.ca.gov) within 21 days of the posting of this notice.